



Indiana Department of Education

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

December 20, 2010

Skyhook Foundation
ATTN: Deborah Morales, Executive Director
20434 S. Santa Fe Ave. 3194
Long Beach, CA 90810

Dear Ms. Morales,

As a requirement listed in our United States History Indiana Academic State Standards, teachers must engage students in learning the historical significance during the time period described as *Modern United States Prosperity and Depression: 1920s and 1939*. In light of the National Council for the Social Studies and the Indiana Council for the Social Studies endorsement of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's documentary *On the Shoulders of Giants*, the Indiana Department of Education agrees this documentary will aid teachers in meeting the following U.S. History indicator:

U.S.H.4.2: Describe the development of popular culture (Individuals, Society and Culture)

Example: Langston Hughes, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Jazz Age, Harlem Renaissance, radio, phonographs, motion pictures and federal funding of the arts

When Indiana's 71,693 junior students enrolled in United States History sit down to learn about this imperative indicator, we hope teachers will enlist the ideals presented in *On the Shoulders of Giants*. With its engaging focus of basketball, students will be exposed not only to the Harlem Rens, but photographs, recordings and many other primary sources that will transport them to this time period. Through the generous funding of the Skyhook Foundation, the Indiana Department of Education hopes to offer this viewing opportunity to all high schools across the state. With the support of NCSS's developed lesson plans accompanying this film, teachers and students will have a greater understanding and appreciation of this critical point in our history.

Through the collaborative efforts of the Indiana Council for the Social Studies and the Indiana Department of Education, administrators, teachers, students and community members will be provided this tremendous viewing opportunity from Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. If questions arise, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Courtney Cabrera

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